Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing the ~~reduction~~ absorption of phosphate or oxalate from the gastrointestinal tract of ~~in vivo in~~ an animal which comprises the step of: administering an effective amount of a formulation comprising a water soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural back bone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is a polyepihalohydrin derivative.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the effective amount of formulation for ~~reduction~~ decreasing absorption of phosphate is from about 1 to about 15 grams per meal.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the effective amount of formulation for ~~reduction~~ decreasing absorption of oxalate is from 0.6 to about 5 grams per meal.

5. (Currently Amended) A use of a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons as an agent for decreasing the ~~reduction~~ absorption of phosphate or oxalate ~~in vivo~~from the gastrointestinal tract in an animal.